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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Naoki TAKAHASHI et al.**

Group Art Unit: **2872**

Application Number: **10/551,140**

Examiner: **Ricky Shafer**

Filed: **September 29, 2005**

Confirmation Number: **3958**

For: **OPTICAL ELEMENT, POLARIZING ELEMENT, LIGHTING
DEVICE, AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY**

Attorney Docket Number: **053158**

Customer Number: **38834**

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 15, 2007

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Official Action dated September 20, 2007.

In the Office Action, restriction is required among the following groups of claims:

- (I) claims 2, 3, and 6-8, optical element comprising a circular reflective polarizer, a retardation layer, and a linear reflective polarizer with particular retardation coefficient/characteristics details (Bsp₁)
- (II) claims 4 and 5, optical element comprising a circular reflective polarizer, a retardation layer, and a linear reflective polarizer with particular retardation material details (Bsp₂)
- (III) claim 9, optical element comprising a circular reflective polarizer, a retardation layer and a linear reflective polarizer with particular circular reflective polarizer details, i.e., a cholesteric liquid crystal (Bsp₃)